

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A method of ~~coating a cell~~ producing a very thin uniform cross-linked hydrocolloid coating of a single cell produced by capillary means comprising the steps of:

placing the cell in a solution of hydrocolloid;

removing the cell from the solution of hydrocolloid by sucking the cell into a capillary;

and

placing the cell in a cross-linking solution after removing the cell from the solution of hydrocolloid, thereby providing the cell with a ~~thin~~ coating with a thickness of 1 to 5% of the cell diameter, in cases of iota-carrageenan and kappa-carrageenan and between 6 to 8% of the of the cell diameter in cases of LMP and alginate of the hydrocolloid; and  
storing the cell in solution.

2. (Original) A method as defined in Claim 1, wherein the hydrocolloid is an alginate.

3. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in Claim 1, wherein the hydrocolloid is Na-alginate.

4. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in Claim 1, wherein the hydrocolloid is low-methoxy pectin (LMP).
5. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in Claim 1, wherein the hydrocolloid is either  $\kappa$  or  $\iota$  carrageenan.
6. (Previously Presented) A method as defined Claim 1, wherein the hydrocolloid solution is in Calcium Adjusted Modified Marc's Ringer (CAMMR) solution.
7. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in Claim 1, wherein the cell is a *Xenopus laevis* egg and embryos.
8. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in Claim 1, wherein the cross-linking solution is a solution of Ca, Ba or K ions.
9. (Original) A method as defined in Claim 8, wherein the cross-linking solution is a solution of  $\text{CaCl}_2$ ,  $\text{BaCl}_2$  or KCl.
10. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in Claim 9, wherein the cross-linking solution of  $\text{CaCl}_2$  or  $\text{BaCl}_2$  is at a concentration of from 0.25% and the KCl solution is at a concentration of 0.5%.

Claims 11-12 (Cancelled)

13. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in Claim 1, wherein the alginate has a high mannuronic acid (M) content.

14. (Previously Presented) A method as defined in Claim 13 wherein the mannuronic acid (M) content of the alginate is from about 29 to about 61 %.

Claims 15-20 (Cancelled)

21. (New) A method as defined in claim 1, where the cell or embryo to be coated is maneuvered by a thin capillary having an approximate or smaller diameter than the diameter of the cell, in such a manner that the coating is forced to perform with a minimal thickness and volume.

22. (New) A method as defined in claim 1, where the coating is uniform on all sides of the coated cell.

23. (New) A method as defined in claim 1, where the coating is transparent.

24. (New) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the coating accumulates photons.

25. (New) A method as defined in claim 1, where the coating forms a microbial shield.

26. (New) A method as defined in claim 1, where the coating is resistant to hazardous material.

27. (New) A method as defined in claim 1, where the coating acts as an inhibitor against damage during freezing and thawing.

28. (New) A method of producing a very thin uniform cross-linked hydrocolloid coating of an embryo produced by capillary means comprising the steps of:

placing the embryo in a solution of hydrocolloid;

removing the embryo from the solution of hydrocolloid by sucking the embryo cell into a capillary; and

placing the embryo in a cross-linking solution after removing the embryo from the solution of hydrocolloid, thereby providing the embryo with a coating with a thickness of 1 to 5% of the embryo diameter, in cases of iota-carrageenan and kappa-carrageenan and between 6 to 8% of the of the embryo diameter in cases of LMP and alginate of the hydrocolloid; and

storing the embryo in solution.

29. (New) A method as defined in Claim 28, wherein the hydrocolloid is an alginate.

30. (New) A method as defined in Claim 28, wherein the hydrocolloid is Na-alginate.

31. (New) A method as defined in Claim 28, wherein the hydrocolloid is low-methoxy pectin (LMP).

32. (New) A method as defined in Claim 28, wherein the hydrocolloid is either  $\kappa$  or  $\lambda$  carrageenan.

33. (New) A method as defined Claim 28, wherein the hydrocolloid solution is in Calcium Adjusted Modified Marc's Ringer (CAMMR) solution.

34. (New) A method as defined in Claim 28, wherein the cell is a *Xenopus laevis* egg and embryos.

35. (New) A method as defined in Claim 28, wherein the cross-linking solution is a solution of Ca, Ba or K ions.

36. (New) A method as defined in Claim 35, wherein the cross-linking solution is a solution of  $\text{CaCl}_2$ ,  $\text{BaCl}_2$  or KCl.

37. (New) A method as defined in Claim 36, wherein the cross-linking solution of  $\text{CaCl}_2$  or  $\text{BaCl}_2$  is at a concentration of from 0.25% and the KCl solution is at a concentration of 0.5%.

38. (New) A method as defined in Claim 28, wherein the alginate has a high mannuronic acid (M) content.

39. (New) A method as defined in Claim 38 wherein the mannuronic acid (M) content of the alginate is from about 29 to about 61 %.

40. (New) A method as defined in claim 28, where the cell or embryo to be coated is maneuvered by a thin capillary having an approximate or smaller diameter than the diameter of the cell, in such a manner that the coating is forced to perform with a minimal thickness and volume.

41. (New) A method as defined in claim 28, where the coating is uniform on all sides of the coated cell.

42. (New) A method as defined in claim 28, where the coating is transparent.

43. (New) A method as defined in claim 28, wherein the coating accumulates photons.

44. (New) A method as defined in claim 28, where the coating forms a microbial shield.

45. (New) A method as defined in claim 28, where the coating is resistant to hazardous material.

46. (New) A method as defined in claim 28, where the coating acts as an inhibitor against damage during freezing and thawing.